

THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT: A ROMANTIC COMEDY

Featuring Negin Farsad as Palestine and Mike Mosallam as Israel.

Written by Negin Farsad & Alex Zalben, with original music by FringeNYC Songwriting Award winner and current Goodspeed Theatre artist-in-residence, Gaby Alter.

WRITER & PERFORMER NOTES

Edinburgh Fringe 2010

NEGIN FARSAD – writer/performer – www.neginfarsad.com

- “smart, funny, and fascinating” - *Wall Street Journal*
- “Critic's Choice!” - *Chicago Tribune*
- “a shining exception” - *Dallas Morning News*
- “delightful and hilarious” – *Salon*
- “doesn't get much funnier than this” - *Backstage*
- “Farsad has a touch of madness about her, and that's always worth the price of a ticket” – *nytheatre.com*
- Director/executive producer of the current feature film release, ‘Nerdcore Rising’, a comedy about Nerdcore hip hop, which premiered at South By Southwest Film Festival, then toured other festivals, winning Best Director, Best Film, and Audience Favourite along the way. The film is now on distribution North America and France, and available on Netflix instant watch.
- Directed, wrote and performed in the Comedy Central series, ‘The Watch List’.
- Currently the Independent Film Channel's correspondent on all things interactive, tech and nerdy.
- Currently writing for the forthcoming PBS animated series, ‘1001 Nights’.
- Recently developed and wrote the MTV series, ‘Detox’.
- As a stand-up comedian Negin has opened for the likes of (Senator) Al Franken and Comedy Central's Axis of Evil Comedy Tour in venues ranging from the Laugh Factory in New York, the Comedy Store in Los Angeles, and Town Hall on Broadway.
- Negin has provided original comedy content for ABC Family as well as Pacifica and Sirius radio stations.
- She has been an active comedian and producer, earning a nomination for the Emerging Comics of New York Awards.
- Her solo show ‘Bootleg Islam’, which she wrote and performed, has appeared in multiple comedy festivals around the country culminating in an off-Broadway run in New York.
- Winner Lifetime Woman Filmmaker Award for short film, ‘Hot Bread Kitchen’.
- Two master's degrees from Columbia University where she studied public policy and race relations (degrees that now collect dust - ha ha).
- Californian-raised Iranian-American, now based in New York.

MIKE MOSALLAM – performer

- Mike has performed in major venues, such as The Kennedy Center (‘Carnival’).
- Seen in a variety of stage, film and TV appearances (such as Comedy Central's ‘The Watch List’).
- Has served on panels and been a featured and guest interviewee on NPR, BBC World News Radio, Al-Arabya, Al-Jazeera, and PBS.
- Mike's first feature film, ‘Stags’, will be in cinemas soon.
- His one-man show, ‘Muslim: The Musical!’, has enjoyed regional success and continues to tour the US.
- He has performed, directed, and produced over 100 stage shows, concerts, and cabarets.

- Mike loves his family and comments that he is blessed to share the stage with the inimitable Negin Farsad.

GABY ALTER – songwriter and composer

- Gaby's musical, 'Band Geeks' has just opened at the world-renowned Goodspeed Theatre, a regional theatre known as Broadway's laboratory for musicals.
- Gaby starred in and helped score 'Nerdcore Rising'. His hip hop tracks with rapper MC Frontalot have appeared in several video games and on G4 television.
- FringeNYC Songwriting Award for 'Young Zombies in Love': "Alter's score is electric and inventive" - *The New York Sun*
- His music and songs have been featured on PBS and cable television, National Public Radio, and the SXSW Film Festival.
- His musical scores have won the San Francisco Theater Critics' Circle Award and the 2004 New York Fringe Festival Songwriting Award, and his song "Union Square" was nominated for a 2010 MAC award.
- Other musicals include 'Reality!', with playwright Itamar Moses (Cape Cod Theater Project, 2008) and the pop-rock song cycle 29 with Tommy Newman (NYU Steinhardt, 2007).
- His work has been showcased at the National Alliance of Musical Theatre's (NAMT's) Festival of New Works, The Summer Play Festival (SPF), William Finn's Evening of New Composers at Barrington Stage, Joe's Pub, the New York Musical Theater Festival (NYMF), Ars Nova, Merkin Hall and on Sirius Radio.
- Gaby writes songs for 'Music Time With Mr. Steve' on PBS Kids, and composed the theme music for NPR's 'Backstory'.
- He is a member of the Dramatists' Guild and ASCAP, and an alumnus of NYU's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. Based in Brooklyn, New York.

ALEXANDER ZALBEN – writer

- Co-author of "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy.
- With Negin Farsad, one half of the "kinetic and clever" sketch comedy duo, Madame Funnypants, nominated for Best Comedic Duo at the Emerging Comics of New York Awards, and featured around the US as an official selection of the Chicago and New York Sketch Comedy Festivals and the Los Angeles, Atlanta, & Miami Improv Festivals, among others.
 - Alexander grew up in Port Washington, Long Island in a family very involved in Judaism (his mother, Jane Breskin Zalben, writes Jewish-themed children's books).
 - He studied acting at Cornell University and joined their sketch comedy group – where he met Negin.
 - Based in New York.

AT EDINBURGH FRINGE 2010

Dates: shows daily 7-25 August

Time: 5.15pm (one hour)

Tickets: free, as part of PBH's Free Fringe

Venue: Whistlebinkies (main space), 4-6 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LL

(or enter via 7 Niddry Street, EH1 1LG)

Venue telephone: 0131 557 5114

MEDIA CONTACTS for more information, hi-res images, interviews, and to reserve a seat:

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